

Questions and Answers on the Village of Northfield Orthoimagery RFP

Note: Because the Village has been delayed in posting these questions and answers, additional questions will be accepted by email through Noon on Thursday, May 6, and answers posted by the end of that same day.

1. Should respondents send the two parts of the proposal separately, or in one packet?
 - a. One packet is best.
2. To whose attention should the packets be directed?
 - a. Michele Braun
3. What types of utility data does Northfield already have?
 - a. Access databases of hydrants, culverts, catch basins, poles, manholes, and valves, not including spatial data.
 - b. Culvert shapefile completed by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission; we are building shapefiles of the assets in 3a (above) as we gather data points.
4. What level of accuracy is provided by the GPS unit that the utilities are using?
 - a. Northfield just purchased and is using a Trimble GeoXH handheld GPS receiver with a Tornado external antenna and Trimble's Pathfinder software that is designed to produce sub-foot accuracy.
5. Does Northfield expect the contractor to provide point capture or other types of planimetric data?
 - a. No. The utility departments are finding points, and will use the photos to help in mapping the lines.
6. Does the Village expect to be able to clearly see curb lines in the photos?
 - a. The Village expects to be satisfied with what can be seen at the requested 0.1524 meter pixel size or (6 inches). If a respondent wants to propose providing a higher-resolution product, they may do so, with a brief explanation.
7. Does the Village realize that the required resolution (0.1524 meter) does not evenly divide into the required tile size (2000 m2)?
 - a. The Village does realize that, and believes that it will not affect image quality in the final product. If a respondent wants to propose a different resolution and/or a different tile size, they may do so, with a brief explanation.
8. Does the Town intend to collect town-wide data in the future? If so, would the Town be interested in seeing an Option as to the cost of collecting town-wide LIDAR at this time?
 - a. The Town has no intention at this time of collecting town-wide, high-resolution photo or elevation data in the near future. If a respondent feels that substantial future cost savings could be realized by including a town-wide data collection at this time, the respondent may propose this as a separate Option.
9. What is the time period for delivery of project products following data acquisition?
 - a. This will be determined in the initial scoping discussions with the contractor.

10. Should products be held for delivery until the work is complete, or should tiles be delivered individually as they are completed?
 - a. This will be determined in the initial scoping discussions with the contractor.
11. Do we want a set of data in feet (in addition to meters) (since engineers tend to work in feet)?
 - a. No. If the respondent believes that it will add significant value to the product, then s/he may include this product as an Option.
12. If a respondent intends to exceed the specifications outlined in the RFP, how should that be indicated in the proposal?
 - a. The respondents should be explicit as to their intention to meet the specifications, and in any instance in which they propose to exceed the specifications, that should be explicitly noted as well. If respondents want to propose additional, complementary services, those can be noted as Options, with a separate price indicated in the cost proposal.
13. Will the data be distributed to the Vermont Center for Geographic Information and/or Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission?
 - a. The Village has not reached a final conclusion on this question.
 - b. The Village does want to obtain the data as the sole property of the municipality, with all the inherent liabilities. Data distribution will be at the discretion of the municipal boards.
14. On page one, paragraph 4, it states LIDAR is the preferred method of DTM collection however there is no mention of LIDAR in the scope of work. Is it OK to provide the DTM from Photogrammetric processes?
 - a. Yes.
15. Is there a Shapefile defining the village limits for us to use in laying out the project?
 - a. Yes. Please email Michele Braun regarding available GIS data.
16. Are you interested in having the site flown at 1:5000 for mapping and 1:15,000 for imagery?
 - a. The 1:1250 scale in the RFP is for the horizontal accuracy, as stated in the Image Rectification section, with an image pixel size of 0.1524 meters. We understand that the 1:1250 scale we are requesting translates to about 1" = 100' for the map accuracy.
17. The Village is requesting a metric map with 2-foot contour intervals. Can contractors propose a half-meter contour interval instead of the 2-foot interval?
 - a. The preliminary answer to this question is that the Department of Public Works prefers the contour intervals in feet, because that is what they are used to seeing from the engineering firms. The Village is researching the state of the trend in changing over to metric, and will make a final decision on this during the scoping of the project. If there is a substantial cost difference in producing intervals in either metric or customary units, respondents can note that.

18. A 1:1250 scale map is equivalent to 1" = 100', which will not accurately depict utility details. The appropriate scale for engineering is 1" = 40', which converts to a 1:500 scale map. Would the Village prefer to have a 1:500 scale map?
- a. Although the Village understands there is a potential for future cost savings with a higher-resolution product, we also understand that there may be a substantial cost increase associated with this resolution increase, and we are working with a finite budget in the present. Respondents who want to recommend a higher-resolution product might be best served by presenting it as an Option.
19. Does the Village want a 500-foot buffer around the project area?
- a. Any buffer around the project area is at the discretion of the contractor, as needed to ensure that the contractor is able to provide the product specified for the area specified. The project area does include areas that are not served by utilities, to enable planning for future service area expansions. It does not include a buffer to ensure complete data collection; that is the responsibility of the contractor.